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LETTER DATED 29 JUNE 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour hereby to reaffirm Cuba's views concerning the procedures which should be used by the Security Council in respect of the Council's review, every 60 days, of the sanctions against Iraq, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 21 of resolution 687 (1991).

In our view, the preliminary review which was carried out by the members of the Security Council during the full informal consultations on the item held in June 1991 did not conform to the provisions of the above-mentioned paragraph of resolution 687 (1991), which clearly states that the review shall be carried out by the Security Council; this obviously did not occur.

I reaffirm my delegation's previously stated interpretation, which is that the full informal consultations held by members of the Council have, as their name indicates, a strictly informal character, and cannot replace either the Security Council or any of its functions; accordingly, they cannot adopt decisions in matters which are the sole prerogative of the Council, such as the review of the sanctions against Iraq under paragraph 21 of resolution 687 (1991).

My delegation believes that this manner of proceeding should not become a precedent, and hopes that these views will be taken duly into account when the time comes for the next review of the sanctions against Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter issued and circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ricardo ALARCON de QUESADA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cuba
to the United Nations